

Decision 31/COP.10

United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/195 of 19 December 2007, declaring the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Recalling decision 30/COP.9 adopted on 2 October 2009 by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/201 of 21 December 2009 concerning the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification and the opportunity it offers to all countries and, in particular, to countries with deserts and those affected by desertification, land degradation and drought,

Deeply concerned about the exacerbation of desertification in all regions of the world, particularly in Africa, and about its grave implications for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically those relating to the eradication of poverty and environmental sustainability,

Responding to the appeal of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session (resolution 64/201), inviting States Parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities aimed at implementing the Decade,

Wishing to highlight and to promote the positive impact of this important initiative pertaining to deserts and the fight against desertification,

Taking note of document ICCD/COP(10)/27 entitled “Report on activities supporting the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)”,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency Task Force of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to collate a list of events, actions and activities and from these to develop a programme in support of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to extend its partnership network to include representatives of civil society, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations;
3. *Invites* States Parties, observers and intergovernmental organizations to submit to the secretariat proposals and contributions in the form of actions, activities and events to mark the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, by 31 December 2011 at the latest, for the compilation of the draft United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification programme by the secretariat by 30 January

2012 and its finalization and dissemination with the support of the Inter-Agency Task Force by March 2012;

4. *Invites* donor countries, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, multilateral funds and arrangements, and partners of the Convention to provide financial and technical support for the elaboration and implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

5. *Invites* developed countries, international financial institutions and multilateral funds to make available, as appropriate, voluntary contributions for the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

6. *Encourages* civil society, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to suggest and undertake appropriate activities and actions conducive to effective implementation at all levels of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session on voluntary actions and activities carried out by stakeholders to mark the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification.

*9th plenary meeting
21 October 2011*